

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:

a substrate which has an obverse surface provided with a plurality of light sources

arranged in a row;

a case including a hollow portion extending along the row of the light sources for guiding light emitted from the light sources toward an image read line; and

a lens array for forming an image of a document onto a plurality of light receiving elements arranged in a row, the document being disposed to face the image read line;

wherein the image reading apparatus further includes a plurality of partitions for dividing the hollow portion longitudinally into a plurality of individual sections; and

~~wherein each of the light sources is confronted by a surface for blocking light emitted from the light source.~~

wherein the case is formed with a plurality of projections extending toward the light sources in corresponding relationship thereto; each of the projections having a tip surface facing a light-emitting surface of a respective one of the light sources for blocking light emitted from the respective light source.

2. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the partitions are integral with the case.

3. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the partitions are arranged at a substantially constant pitch longitudinally of the hollow portion, the light sources being equally allocated to the individual sections.

4. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the partitions has light-reflective surfaces.

5. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the partitions are white.

6. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 5, wherein a plurality of surfaces defining the hollow portion as well as portions of the obverse surface of the substrate facing the hollow portion are also white.

7. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the case is made of white resin.

8. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the plurality of light receiving elements are disposed on the obverse surface of the substrate, the image reading apparatus further including a reflection preventing member surrounding the light receiving elements.

9. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the obverse surface of the substrate is provided with auxiliary elements, at least selected ones of the partitions covering the auxiliary elements.

10. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 9, wherein each of the auxiliary elements projects from the obverse surface of the substrate, each selected partition being formed, at a portion covering the auxiliary element, with a recess for receiving the auxiliary element.

11. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the case includes a groove for receiving the lens array, the case being provided with a transparent plate which has an obverse surface providing the image read line; and

wherein the transparent plate has a reverse surface formed with a projection for engagement with the lens array for forcing the lens array toward a bottom of the groove.

12. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the lens array comprises a plurality of lenses arranged in a row and held in an elongated holder, the projection extending longitudinally of the holder for engagement therewith.

13. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the case is formed with an opening in which the transparent plate is fitted, the transparent plate and side walls defining the opening being respectively provided with at least one pair of engagement means for preventing the transparent plate from moving far away from the lens array.

14-18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) An image reading apparatus comprising:
a substrate which has an obverse surface provided with a plurality of light sources arranged in a row;
a case including a hollow portion extending along the row of the light sources for guiding light emitted from the light sources toward an image read line; and
a lens array for forming an image of a document onto a plurality of light receiving elements arranged in a row, the document being disposed to face the image read line;
wherein the image reading apparatus further includes a plurality of partitions for dividing the hollow portion longitudinally into a plurality of individual sections; and
wherein the obverse surface of the substrate is provided with auxiliary elements, at least selected ones of the partitions covering the auxiliary elements.

20. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:

a substrate which has an obverse surface provided with a plurality of light sources arranged in a row;

a case including a hollow portion extending along the row of the light sources for guiding light emitted from the light sources toward an image read line; and

a lens array for forming an image of a document onto a plurality of light receiving elements arranged in a row, the document being disposed to face the image read line;

wherein the image reading apparatus further includes a plurality of partitions for dividing the hollow portion longitudinally into a plurality of individual sections;

wherein the case includes a groove for receiving the lens array, the case being provided with a transparent plate which has an obverse surface providing the image read line; and

wherein the transparent plate has a reverse surface formed with a projection for engagement with the lens array for forcing the lens array toward a bottom of the groove;

wherein the lens array includes a lens holder and a plurality of lenses held in the lens holder, the projection of the transparent plate coming into pressing contact with the lens holder without contacting the lenses.

21. (New) An image reading apparatus comprising:

a substrate which has an obverse surface provided with a plurality of light sources arranged in a row;

a case including a hollow portion extending along the row of the light sources for guiding light emitted from the light sources toward an image read line; and

a lens array for forming an image of a document onto a plurality of light receiving elements arranged in a row, the document being disposed to face the image read line;

wherein the image reading apparatus further includes a plurality of partitions for dividing the hollow portion longitudinally into a plurality of individual sections;

wherein each of the light sources is confronted by a surface for blocking light emitted from the light source; and

wherein the obverse surface of the substrate is provided with auxiliary elements, at least selected ones of the partitions covering the auxiliary elements.

22. (New) The image reading apparatus according to claim 21, wherein each of the auxiliary elements projects from the obverse surface of the substrate, each selected partition being formed, at a portion covering the auxiliary element, with a recess for receiving the auxiliary element.